



165 Brick Store Landing Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
302-659-DEMA (3362) or 1-877-SAY DEMA  
FAX 302-659-6853

## NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 07, 2007  
7 a.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT:** Rosanne Pack  
(302) 222-6573

# SNOW ACROSS DELMARVA BRINGS NEED FOR CAUTION

With the first significant snowfall in Delaware causing some cancellations and travel delays, Delaware Emergency Management officials urge the public to use caution in driving and working outdoors.

The light, powdery snow is tapering off in the early morning hours, leaving varying levels of accumulation with more than an inch across some southern and mid-state areas. Even after sunshine returns to Delmarva, drivers should allow extra time for travel and be aware that shaded areas of roadway can remain icy and roads can be icy and slick at night. Transportation crews and emergency vehicles continue to be on roadways and drivers are urged to be aware and yield to them.

This is a good time for families to review their emergency plans and supplies in order to be prepared for power outages or the possibility of restricted travel in the future. With temperatures remaining below freezing and the on-going threat of even lower temperatures because of windchill factors, everyone should take care to limit exposure to the cold and to provide shelter and water for pets.

The following is a list of activities and supplies for winter preparedness:

**Prepare a Winter Storm Plan:**

Be prepared to “camp out” in your home for up to three days if roads are impassable and/or you lose power.

Know where your family will go if you lose power and have to evacuate – Red Cross shelter, home of friends or family, hotel?

Make sure family and friends know where you will be.

Plan for transporting your pets to safety, if you have to evacuate.

Have extra blankets on hand.

Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.

Keep pets properly sheltered, bring them indoors if possible, or place them in a heated, dry space with ample unfrozen water.

**Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit Containing:**

First aid kit and essential medications and other items for those with special needs such as infants or persons with functional disabilities.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.

Enough non-perishable food to last for at least three days. Don't forget a manual can opener in case the power does go out. And don't forget supplies for your pets – food, cat litter, etc.

Remember, food can be warmed over a fire place and stored outside if the temperatures are low enough

Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day to last at least 3 days. And don't forget water for pets!).

Extra layers of clothing keep you warmer and allows removing when warm and adding back when temperatures drop.

Assemble a scaled-down emergency supply kit for your car, too. Include a blanket, small containers of water, snacks and a first aid kit.

Have your car winterized before winter storms arrive.

**Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings**

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.

Know what winter storm WATCHES and WARNINGS mean:

A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area.

A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill are expected. Seek shelter immediately!

**When a Winter Storm WATCH is Issued**

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and TV stations, or the Weather Channel for further updates.

Be alert to changing weather conditions.

Avoid unnecessary travel.

When a Winter Storm WARNING is issued, stay indoors during the storm.

If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.

Walk carefully on snowy, icy, sidewalks.

After the storm, if you shovel snow, be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so take frequent breaks. Avoid overexertion.

**Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must:**

Carry an emergency supply kit, including flash lights and a cell phone if possible.

Keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

Always be aware of emergency or road maintenance vehicles and yield to them when driving.

**If You Do Get Stuck**

Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety.

Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.

Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and ice so fumes won't back up in the car.

Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.

As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.

Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.